ARTICLES

to be enquired of within the Dioces of Norwiche, in the Metropoliticall visitation of the moste

Reuerend father in God, MATHEW, by the prouidence of God, Archebyshop of Canterbury, Primate of all Englande, and Metropolitane,

In the yeare of our Lorde GOD.
M. D. LXVII.

M. C.

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Instructions to the Commissioners for the Diocess of Norwiche.

1 Firste, that you doe with all diligence trauell to reduce the state of the clergye vnto one vniforme order in their ministration and preaching: and that w^out any partiall respect you will put in dew execution the Queenes maiesties Ecclesiasticall lawes, Statutes, Iniunctions, and her highnes other commandements gyuen and published in that behalf.

2 Item, þ in all places in your cyrcuite, you giue in charge not only vnto the curates and ministers, but also vnto the Churchwardens of euery church & chappell, that they do not admitte and suffer anye person to preache or minister in their seuerall church or chappell, before they shall firste see their seuerall licences vnder seale in due forme, vnder the payne that may follow thereof.

3 Item, you shall take diligent heede, that no fees but due & of old accustomed, be exacted or taken of any of þ people by any registrer, clerke, somner, or anye other youre ministers or attendantes.

4 Item, for the better certainty & knowledge of all duties and fees vnto suche as shuld pay the same, you shall note the certaine some thereof with one of your handes at the leaste in some parte of euery Instrument or writinge that shall passe your seale or graunt.

5 Item, that you foresee þ no greater price be taken for the Articles which you shall inquire of, together bound with þ Aduertisements then iiij.d. & for þ table of þ degrees ij.d.

6 Item, when you haue fynished your visitation & cyrcuite, (the charges of your vyage being borne and discharged) if any part of the dew procurations by you receaued of the clergy, do remaine vnspent, all the same you shal distribute to the moste poore and needye of the clergye that bee residents, and keepe hospitalitye vpon theire benefices in the sayde dioces. *God saue the Queene.*

Articles to be inquired of.

IN primis, whether Diuine seruice be sayde or songe by youre Minister or Ministers in your seuerall Churches, duelye and reuerently, as it is set forth by the lawes of this realme, with out any kinde of variation. And whether the holy Sacramentes be likewise ministred reuerently, in such manner as by the lawes of this Realme and by the Quenes Maiesties iniunctions, and by thaduertisments set forthe by publike authority, is appointed and prescribed. 1

Item, whether you haue in youre paryshe churches all things necessary & requisite for Common prayer and administration of the Sacraments, specially the booke of Common prayer, the Bible in ỹ largest volume, the Homilyes, with the Paraphrases of Erasmus: A conuenient Pulpit wel placed: A comly and decent table for the holy Communion, couered decently, & set in place prescribed by ỹ Quenes maiesties Iniunctions. The Chest or boxe for the pooze men, and al other things necessary in and to the premisses. And whether your Aulters bee taken downe, accordinge to the commaundemente in that behalfe geuen. 2

Item, whether youre Prestes, Curates, or ministers do vse in the time of the celebracion of diuine seruice to weare a surples, prescribed by ỹ Quenes maiesties Iniunctions and the boke of Common 3

prayer. And whether they do celebrate the same diuine seruice in the chauncell or in the Churche, and do vse all Rites and orders prescribed in the boke of Common prayer, &c. and none other.

4 Item, whether your Curates or ministers do publiquely in theire open Churches reade in māner appoynted, the Queenes Maiesties Iniunctions and Homelies: The aduertisementes latelye sette forthe by publique authoritie. And whether the same in all poyntes be duely obserued.

5 Item, whether youre Curates or ministers or any of them doe vse to minister the Sacramente of Baptisme in basons, or els in the Foute standing in the place accustomed. And whether the same fonte be decently kepte. And whether they do vse to minister the holye Communion in wafer bread according to the Queenes Maiesties Iniunctions, or els in common bread. And also whether they do minister in any prophane Cuppes, Bowles, dishes, or Chalices heretofore vsed at Masse, or els in a decent Communion Cuppe prouided and kept for the same purpose only. And whether the communicants do vse to receyue the holy Communion standinge, sittinge, or els knealinge.

6 Item, whether ymages and al other monuments of ydolatry and superstition be destroyed and abolyshed in your seuerall parishes: And whether your Churches and Chauncels be well adorned and conueniently kept without waste, destruction, or abuse of anye thinge. Whether the rode lofte bee pulled

downe, according to the order prescribed: and of the partition betweene the Chauncell and the Churche be kepte. Whether youre Churchyardes be well fenced and cleanly kepte. Whether anye sale haue bene made of youre Churche goods, by whome and to whome, and what hathe been don with the monye thereof comming. Whether youre Chauncels and Parsonages be well and sufficiently repaired: Whether any man haue pulled downe or discouered any Church, Chauncel, Chappel, Almes house, or suche like, or haue plucked downe ỹ bells, or haue felled or spoyled any wood or timber in any Churche yarde.

Item, whether there be any Parsons that intrude themselfe, and presume to exercise any kinde of ministery in the churche of God, without imposition of handes & ordinary auctoritie. Whether theire Churche or Chappell be serued with any readers. Or whether any Minister do remoue from any other diocese to serue in this, without letters testimoniall of thordinary from whome he came, to testify the cause of his departinge thence, and of hys behauiour. Or any beinge once preist or Minister, that dothe not minister, or frequente and resorte to the Common prayer now vsed, and at tymes appoynted communicate. And whether anye suche do goe and boaste himselfe lyke a lay man. 7

Item, whether youre Parsons and Vicars be residente continually vpon their benefices: Whether they giue themselues to deuoute prayer, discreate reading of the Scripture, and godly contemplacion, & 8

releaue the poore charitably to their habilitie, accordinge to the Queenes Iniunctions. Whether they pray for the prosperous estate of the Quenes Maiestye, as is prescribed in her graces Iniunctions.

9 Item, whether anye of youre ministers dothe or hathe admitted any notorioulse sinner or malicious person out of Charitie, without iuste penance done and reconciliatiō had, to receaue the holy Communion: or any that hath not receaued the same accordinge as to a Christian appertayneth, and by the lawes it is appointed. And whether you do heare or knowe any ỹ doth vse to say or heare the priuat Masse, or doe vse any other seruice then is prescribed by the lawes of this Realme.

10 Item, whether your ministers doe call vppon fathers, mothers, and maisters of youthe, to bringe them vp in the feare of almighty God, in obediēce and in conuenient occupations. Whether they bee peacemakers, and exhorte the people to obediēce to their Prince, & to all other that be in authoritie, to charity and mutual loue among themselues. Whether they geue themselues to superstition, and bee maintainers of the vnlearned people in ignoraūce.

11 Item, whether your Persons, Vicars, & Curates be cōmon gamesters, hunters, haunters of tauerns or alehouses: Suspected of anye notable crime: Fautors of forren poures, letters of good religion, preachers of corrupt doctrine: stubborne or disobedient to lawes and orders. Whether they be geuē to filthy lyfe. Whether they be light either in reaumple

ple of life, or in vnwont and vnsemely apparrell.

Item, whether anye of your benefices be vacant, how longe they haue ben vacant: who is Patrone. Whether there be any laye or tempozall men, (not beinge within orders) or children, or anye other (within age) that hathe or enioyeth ani benefice or spiritual pzomotion: any Patron that suffereth any benefice to be vacante, and taketh the tithes and other fructes to himselfe. 12

Item, whether your Ministers keepe their regis- ters well, and do pzesent the copy of them onte eue- ry yeare by Indenture, to the Ordinary or his offi cers. And teache the Articles of the fayth, and the Tenne commaundementes, and the Lozdes pzay- er. as is pzescribed them in the Catechisme. 13

Item, whether youre Parsons and Uicars haue any other or mo benefices, where & in what Coun- try they bee: Whether they came by them by Sy- mony, or other vnlawful meanes. Whether they do let their benefice to farme, or els kepe them in their owne handes. Whether they keepe hospitalitye or not. Whether in their absẽce they leaue their cures to honest, learned, or expert Curates. Whether they make their ordinarye Sermons, accordinge to the Queenes maiestes Iniunctions. Whether they admitte any to pzeache vnlicensed, or put by any that hath license. Whether they reade the Queenes ma iesties Iniunctions as they oughte to do, and saye theire Seruice sensibly and distinctly. 14

Item, whether the laye people be diligent in com- 15

minge to the Churche on the holy dayes, and with all humblenes, reuerently and deuoutelye doe geue themselues to the hearinge of Commune prayer in the time thereof, and otherwise occupy themselues in priuate praiers, readinge of Scriptures, or other vertuouse exercise. Yf anye be negligente or wilfull. Whether the forfaiture be leued on their goods to the vse of the poore, according to the lawes of this Realm in ỹ behalfe prouided. And what mony hath ben gathered by the Churchewardẽs of the forfets.

19 Item, whether there be in your quarters any that openly or priuily vse or frequẽt any kinde of diuine seruice or common prayer, other then is set forth by the lawes of this Realme: and disturbers of cõmon prayers, or letters of the worde of God to be reade, preached or hearde: Any that by couerte or crafftye meanes depraue or contemne ỹ same: or that speake to ỹ derogatiõ of ỹ Queenes maiesties auctority & power, or of ỹ lawes set out by publike auctority.

20 Item, whether there be amonge you any blasphemers of the name of almighty God, adulterers, fornicators, baudes, or receauers of such persons. Any suspected of incest or any other notoriouse fault, sin or crime. Any dronkardes, ribaldes, common slaunderers of their neighboures, raylers or scolders, sowers of discorde betweene neighboures, by playes, rimes, famouse libels, or otherwise.

21 Item, whether there be in your parishes any Inkeepers or Alewiues, that admit any resort to their houses in tyme of Commone prayer . Anye that commonlye

commonlye absente them selues from theyre owne Churche: or otherwise idely or lewdlye prophaneth the Sabbath day. Any that keepe any secret cõuenticles, preachings, lectures or readings, contrary to ỹ lawes. Any suspected of heresy, or that maintain any erronious opinions cõtrary to the lawes of almighty God and good religion, by publique authoritie in this Realme set forth.

Item, whether there be in these parties which ministre the goodes of those whiche be deade, without authoritie: any executors ỹ haue not fulfilled their testators will, specially in paying of legacies geuen to good and godly vses, as to the releise of pouerte, to poore scholers, orphanes, highe waies, mariage of poore maidens, and suche like. Whether youre Hospitals & Almes houses be iustly vsed, accordinge to the foundacio and auncient ordinaũces of the same. Whether ther be any other placed in thẽ then poore impotent & needy persons, that hath not other wise where with or whereby to liue. 16

Item, whether there be any which of late haue bequeathed in their testaments, or other waies ther be appointed by ordinaries, any sũmes of mony, Jewelles Plate, Ornamẽts, or annuities for ỹ erectiõ of any obites, diriges, trentals, or any such like vse, now by the lawes of this Realm not permitted: and if there be, that you present the names of such executors, the quantity and quality of the guifte, that order may be taken therein accordingly. 17

Item, whether there be any mony or stoke apperteininge to anye parishe churche, in anye mannes 18

handes;

handes, that refuseor differreth to paye the same: or that vseth fraude, deceite or delaye to make anye accompte in the presence of the Honestye in the parishe, for the same. Whether youre Churche wardens & others, afore tyme, haue gyuen the yearely accompte, accordinge vnto the custome as it hath been aforetime vsed. whether the store of the poore mennes boxe be openlie and indifferentlie giuen where neede is, without parciall affection. whether any stocke of cattel or graine appertaining to your churches, be decated: by whose negligence, and in whose haddes.

churchwardens accompts

if any stock decayed

Item, whether youre schoolemaisters be of a sincere religion, and be diligent in teaching and bringing vp of youth. Whether they teache any other Grãmar, then suche as is appointed by ỹ Queenes Maiesties Iniunction annexed to the same, or not.

Schoolemrs.

Item, whether there be any amonge you that vse sorcerie or inchauntment, magike, incantations, or nigromancie, or that be suspected of the same.

Witches

Item, whether there bee anye in these partes, that haue maried within degrees of affinitie or consanguinitie, by the lawes of God forbidden, so set oute in a table for an Admonition. Anyman that hath two wiues, or anie woman that hath two husbandes. Anie that beinge diuorced or seperated aside, hath maried againe. Anye maried that haue made precontractes. Any that haue made priuye or secrete contractes. Anye that haue maried without banes thrise solemnelye asked. Anye couples maried that liue

illegall mariages.

married yᵗ lyue vnder one roofe

liue not together, but slaũderously liue apart: Any that haue maried out of the parishe churche, wher thei ought to haue the same solemnised.

marriag in yᵉ church

Item, whether any your Ordinaries within this dioces, theire Chauncellor, Officialls, Cõmissaries, Registrers, & all & singuler others that haue or doe exercise any visitation or Jurisdiction ecclesiasticall win any part of this dioces, haue vprightly, faythfully and vnfaynedly to ỹ vttermoste of their powers obserued in theyr owne persons and towards all other, put in due execution the Queenes maiestis ecclesiasticall lawes, Statutes, Iniunctions, and al her highnes other Commandements published for vniformity of doctrine, and due order of the publik ministration of Gods holy word and sacraments, and haue cõmended and fauored all such as sought the same, & condignely punished all suche as sought the contrary. 24

Item, whether haue any of them at any time wittingly suffered faultes & transgressions to remaine vnpunished, for mony, gayne, pleasure, frendshippe or any other affectionate respecte, or yf any of them be or haue beene burdensome to the Subiectes of theire seueral Jurisdictions, by exacting or takinge excessiue fees, procurations, any rewardes or Commodities by the way of promotion, gift, contribution, helpe, loane, redemption of pennance, omission of quarter Sermons, obtaining of any benefice or office, or any other like wayes or meanes. 25

excessiue fees &c

Generally, whether there be anie euell liuers or offenders

England, Church

offenders of the lawes of almightie God: Anie suspected of any notorious sinne, fault or crime, to the offence of Christian people committed: Anie that stubburnlie refuse to cõforme them selfe to vnitie & good religion: Anie that bruteth abroad rumors of the alteration of the same, or otherwise that disturbeth good orders, and the quietnesse of Christes Churche and Christian congregation.

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